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of the important species. Miss Marshall has introduced an elaborate key at the beginning of the book, designed to lead the reader directly to the genus. This naturally presents the complexities inherent in a subject of such acknowledged difficulty. One notes some inconsistencies. "For convenience," *Craterellus* is described among the "fungi with gills," but even then the writer failed to find its place in the key. Such looseness reacts in the end on the general worth of the book. Then it seems a pity that Miss Marshall should attempt to describe in general language, and sometimes even figuratively, structural characters and physiological activities that are fundamental to all careful observations of fungi. Such expressions have a pseudo-simplicity, which deceives and misleads instead of enlightening the novice.

The second work is issued as a *Memoir* of the New York State Museum, by the botanist, Mr. Charles H. Peck. The forty-eighth report for 1894, containing quarto colored plates and descriptions of edible fungi, was in great demand, so that several editions were exhausted almost as soon as issued. The forty-ninth, fifty-first, and fifty-second reports, contained illustrations and descriptions of thirty-three species. The work of the past year adds fourteen species to the list. On account of the great demand for these reports by mycologists and mycophagists, the parts on edible fungi are brought together to form the present memoir, illustrations and text having been revised when necessary.⁴ Thus the forty-eighth report with sixty-nine species and the present memoir with forty-eight species illustrate to date the edible and poisonous fungi of the state. The character of descriptions and plates is like that of former reports. The figures are stiff and mechanical in drawing and rather crude in coloring. A comparison of the two books in this respect shows the great superiority of photographs and half tones over anything but the most expert and artistic drawing, and the most expensive reproduction.—B. M. DAVIS.

MINOR NOTICES.

THE REPORT of the state botanist of New York for 1899 has just appeared in its usual dilatory fashion. It contains descriptions of numerous new fleshy fungi, and three colored plates.—J. M. C.

THE THIRD FASCICLE of Schumann's *Blühende Kakteen* (Iconographia Cactacearum) has appeared, containing beautiful illustrations of *Echinocactus longihamatus* Gal., *E. Monvillei* Lem., *E. Fordii* Orcutt, and *E. Knip-
pelianus* Liebn.—J. M. C.

THE SEVENTH FASCICLE of the first volume of "Illustrations de la Flore du Congo," by Wildeman and Durand, has just appeared, containing *plates*

⁴ PECK, CHARLES H.: Report of the State Botanist on Edible Fungi of New York, 1895-1899. 4to. pp. 133-234. *pls.* 44-68. Albany: University of the State of New York. 1900.

73-84. The publication continues its high character, and the plates represent the best of the lithographer's art.—J. M. C.

ONE of the most recent additions to the local floras of Britain is the *Flora of Cheshire*,⁵ prepared from the manuscripts of the late Lord de Tabley. It gives in great fullness an account of the floral districts, the ecological conditions, and a list or species accompanied by a detailed account of stations.—J. M. C.

THE FIRST FASCICLE of the third volume of Pittier's *Flora of Costa Rica*⁶ has appeared. It contains the "Filices, Equisetaceae, Lycopodiaceae, Selaginellaceae, and Rhizocarpaceae," by H. Christ. Seventeen new species and ten new varieties of ferns are described, besides one new species and two new varieties of Lycopodium.—J. M. C.

BILTMORE BOTANICAL STUDIES is the title of a new botanical journal, to be "issued at irregular intervals," and to include papers by the director of the Biltmore Herbarium and his associates. The first number was issued April 8, 1891, and includes the following papers: C. D. BEADLE and F. E. BOYNTON, Revision of the species of *Marshallia* (7 species, 3 of them new); C. L. BOYNTON and C. D. BEADLE, Notes on certain cone-flowers (including 5 new species of *Rudbeckia*); T. G. HARBISON, New or little known species of *Trillium* (3 new species); C. D. BEADLE, New species of thorns from the southeastern states (21 new species of *Crataegus*); C. D. BEADLE, a shrubby oak of the southern Alleghanies (*Q. Boyntoni*). The journal is very handsomely printed and illustrated.—J. M. C.

PROFESSOR E. L. GREENE has begun the publication of a series of papers bearing the title *Plantae Bakerianae*.⁷ It is to contain lists of plants collected by Mr. Carl F. Baker and his colleagues and distributed to various herbaria on both sides of the Atlantic. The first volume is to include the collections of 1898 by Messrs. Baker, Earle, and Tracy in southern Colorado, and the fascicle now at hand extends from Fungi to Iridaceae. A prefatory narrative by Mr. Earle describes clearly the region traversed, and gives an adequate background for the list of plants which follows. The fungi are by Messrs. Earle and Tracy, and the list includes descriptions of thirty-one new species. The Polyporaceae have been determined by Professor Underwood, the lichens by Professor Fink, and the grasses by Professor Tracy; otherwise the determinations are by Professor Greene, who includes descriptions of new species of *Zygadenus* and *Allium*.—J. M. C.

⁵ TABLEY, LORD DE: The flora of Cheshire. Edited by Spencer Moore, and with a biographical notice of the author by Sir Mountstuart Grant Duff. 8vo. pp. cxiv + 399. London: Longmans, Green, & Co. 1899. \$3.50.

⁶ PITTIER, H.—*Primitiae Florae Costaricensis*. Vol. III. pp. 1-69. San José de Costa Rica. 1901. 75 cents.

⁷ *Plantae Bakerianae* 1: 1-52. 23Ja1901. Fungi to Iridaceae. Catholic University of America, Washington, D. C. Price 40 cents.